UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/46
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 72

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12)]

51/46. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,[1]

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 49/76 A of 15 December 1994,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,[2]

---

[1] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[2] A/51/219.

Deeply concerned by the continuing decrease in contributions to the Programme, which has already affected a number of activities, beginning with the suspension of publications such as the Disarmament Newsletter and Topical Papers,

1. Takes note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;[2]

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. Stresses the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling developing countries to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies;

4. Notes with appreciation the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the United Nations information centres and the regional centres for disarmament;

5. Recommends that the Programme focus its efforts:

(a) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, in particular through the continuing publication in all official languages of The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook and Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations, and the updating of the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements;

(b) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(c) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. Invites all Member States to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

7. Commends the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the educational field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[3] in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre not only remains valid but is even more relevant today in the changed international environment,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Recognizing the need for the Regional Centre to pursue effectively its expanded function,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Kathmandu and at Hiroshima, Japan, in 1996,

Appreciating highly the important role Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

---

[3] A/51/445.

1. Reaffirms its resolution 50/71 D of 12 December 1995, in particular its strong support for the continued operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific as an essential promoter of the regional peace and disarmament dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region known as the "Kathmandu process";

2. Expresses its appreciation for the political support and financial contribution received by the Regional Centre;

3. Appeals to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and its implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Regional confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 B of 12 December 1995,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[4]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[5] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B;

2. Reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. Also reaffirms its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. Welcomes the fact that the Committee's programme of work has led to specific actions and measures promoting confidence-building and security in the Central African subregion;

5. Notes the holding of the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of Countries Members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, at Yaoundé on 8 July 1996;

6. Welcomes with great satisfaction the signature at that Summit of the Non-Aggression Pact between the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee, and reaffirms its conviction that the Pact is likely to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and further confidence-building in the Central African subregion;

7. Invites the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

---

[4] A/50/474, annex I.

[5] A/51/287.

8. Welcomes with satisfaction the Final Declaration of the First Summit of the Standing Advisory Committee,[6] which aims at the implementation of the following measures:

(a) The promotion of participatory systems of governance as a means of preventing conflicts;

(b) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of training seminars for officers in the armed forces, republican guard, gendarmerie and police forces of the Central African States, in order to promote a culture of peace by explaining, once again, their role in a democratic context;

(c) The development of a programme to combat illicit arms trafficking, in order to remove this source of insecurity and a threat to the stability of States in the subregion;

(d) The setting-up, under United Nations auspices, of an early warning system as the basic instrument for preventive diplomacy in Central Africa;

(e) The strengthening of cooperation between States of the subregion and bilateral and multilateral partners on the question of peace and security in Central Africa;

9. Expresses its conviction that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts, and welcomes with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

10. Welcomes the holding, under United Nations auspices, of the first training seminar for instructors in peace operations, at Yaoundé from 9 to 17 September 1996, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the units specializing in peace operations in the armed forces of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

11. Expresses its gratitude to those Governments which responded favourably to the request from the General Assembly and contributed towards financing the aforementioned training seminar;

12. Emphasizes once again the importance of continuing with this training programme in order to strengthen the participation of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in future United Nations peace operations;

13. Commends the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

14. Appeals to Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of the present resolution;

---

[6] A/51/274-S/1996/631, annex.

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

D

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,[7]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8] it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

---

[7] A/51/218, annex.

[8] Resolution S-10/2.

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1996 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/71 E of 12 December 1995,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a possible basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

ANNEX

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that any use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity,

Desiring to achieve a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation of all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Determined, therefore, to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Convinced that the present Convention would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Determined to continue negotiations for the achievement of this goal,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States Parties to the present Convention solemnly undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Article 2

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3

1. The present Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State that does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present article may accede to it at any time.

2. The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty-five Governments, including the Governments of the five nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of the Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of entry into force of this Convention, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. The present Convention shall be registered by the depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 4

The present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention, opened for signature at _____ on the _____ day of _____ one thousand nine hundred and _____.

E

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolution 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 C of 12 December 1995 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking into account the guidelines for international arms transfers adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 substantive session,[9]

Welcoming the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which have contributed substantially to understanding and cooperation among the African States and have thereby strengthened its role in the areas of peace, disarmament, security and development,

Bearing in mind the financial situation of the Regional Centre as described by the Secretary-General in his report on the activities of the Regional Centre,[10]

Underlining, therefore, the need to provide the Regional Centre with financial stability so as to facilitate the effective planning and implementation of its programmes of activities,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have, so far, contributed to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. Commends the activities carried out by the Regional Centre in identifying and broadening the understanding of pressing disarmament and security issues in the African region;

---

[9] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

[10] See A/51/403.

3. Reaffirms its support for the further operation and strengthening of the Regional Centre, and encourages it to continue to intensify its efforts in promoting cooperation with subregional and regional organizations, as well as among the African States, in order to facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament, with a view to promoting peace and security;

4. Appeals once again to Member States, mainly to African countries, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make regular and appropriate voluntary contributions in order to revitalize the Regional Centre, strengthen its programmes of activities and facilitate the effective implementation of such programmes;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the current financial situation of the Regional Centre, to intensify his efforts in exploring new ways and means of funding, and to continue to provide all necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Director of the Regional Centre is, as far as possible and within existing resources, locally based in order to revitalize the activities of the Regional Centre;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

F

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8] the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly,[11] the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, inter alia, to continue the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has already trained an appreciable number of public officials selected from geographical regions represented in the United Nations system, most of whom are now in positions of

---

[11] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9-13, document A/S-12/32.

responsibility in the field of disarmament affairs in their respective countries or Governments,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme, as designed, continues to enable an increased number of public officials, in particular from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. Reaffirms its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[11] and the report of the Secretary-General[12] approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1996 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

---

[12] A/33/305.